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What is claimed is:

1. A detergent tablet for use in a washing machine, the tablet having one or more phases at least one of which is in the form of a compressed particulate solid comprising:

a) a polymeric disintegrant having a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.3mm and at least 30 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.2mm; and

b) a water-soluble hydrated salt having a solubility in distilled water of at least about 25g/100g at 25°C.

2. A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric disintegrant has a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.25mm and at least 50 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.2mm.

3. A detergent tablet according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the polymeric disintegrant has a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size above about 0.05mm, preferably above about 0.075mm.

4. A detergent tablet for use in a washing machine, the tablet having one or more phases at least one of which is in the form of a compressed particulate solid comprising:

a) a polymeric disintegrant;

b) a water-soluble hydrated salt having a solubility in distilled water of at least about 25g/100g at 25°C; and optionally

c) an effervescent agent.

5. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the polymeric disintegrant I is selected from starch, cellulose and derivatives thereof, alginates, sugars, polyvinylpyrrolidones, swellable clays and mixtures thereof.

6. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt is selected from hydrates of sodium acetate, sodium metaborate, sodium orthophosphate, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate,

- 5 sodium potassium tartrate, potassium aluminium sulphate, calcium bromide, calcium nitrate, sodium citrate, potassium citrate and mixtures thereof.
7. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt is selected from water-soluble mono-, di- tri- and tetrahydrate salts and
10 mixtures thereof.
8. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt has a melting point in the range from about 30°C to about 95°C.
- 15 9. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 8 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt has a melting point in the range from about 30°C to about 75°C.
10. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 9 containing from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight each of the polymeric disintegrant and water-soluble
20 hydrated salt.
11. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 10 having a child bite strength (CBS) of at least about 6 kg, preferably greater than about 14 kg.
- 25 12. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 11 wherein the particulate solid compressed at a pressure of at least about 40 kg/cm², preferably at least about 250 kg/cm², more preferably at least about 350 kg/cm².
13. A detergent tablet according to any of claims 1 to 12, the detergent tablet
30 comprising
- a) a first phase in the form of a shaped body having at least one mould therein; and
- b) a second phase is in the form of a particulate solid compressed within said mould.
- 35 14. A detergent tablet according to any of claim 13 wherein the second phase is compressed at a pressure of less than about 350 kg/cm².
15. A detergent tablet according to claim 12 or 14 wherein the first phase is compressed at a pressure of at least about 350 kg/cm².
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